Appl. No. 09/687,157   PATENT
Amdt. dated: January 13, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of 8-3-2005, Advisory Action
of 10-21-2005 and Panel Decision of 12-16-2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a program content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the method comprising:

receiving a command from the content distributor to store the program content at the user location before a user specifically requests the program content, wherein the program content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program;

processing the command sent from a remote location with respect to the user location;

receiving the program content at the user location;

storing the program content at the user location in response to at least the processing the command; and

detecting a user action related to the program content after storage of the program content.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the program content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the program content comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a show, or a movie.

3.   (Canceled)

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4.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the ~~program~~ content comprises storing the ~~program~~ content on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a subset of ~~programs~~ content from a linear schedule of ~~programs~~ content associated with the content distributor; and

transmitting the subset to the user location.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing the command comprises determining usage rules related to the ~~program~~ content.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for distributing ~~a program~~ content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the method comprising:

commanding the user location to store the ~~program~~ content from the content distributor without a user associated with the user location specifically requesting the ~~program~~ content, wherein:

the ~~program~~ content is stored proximate to the user location, and

the content distributor is remotely-located from the user location; and

sending the ~~program~~ content to the user location for storage before a user specifically requests the ~~program~~ content, wherein the ~~program~~ content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program.

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9.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of determining a subset of ~~program~~ content from a larger set of ~~program~~ content, wherein the ~~program~~ content is included in the subset.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining usage rules for the ~~program~~ content.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising sending usage rules for the ~~program~~ content to the user location.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, wherein the ~~program~~ content is unmentioned in a linear schedule.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising broadcasting the ~~program~~ content to a plurality of user locations.

14.   (Currently Amended) A distribution program product for distributing a ~~program~~ content sent by a content distributor to a user location, the distribution program product comprising:

code for receiving a command from the content distributor to store the ~~program~~ content at the user location before a user specifically requests the ~~program~~ content, wherein the ~~program~~ content comprises at least one of a video program or an audio program;

code for processing the command sent from a remote location with respect to the user location;

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code for receiving the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> at the user location;

code for storing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> at the user location in response to at least the processing the command;

code for detecting a user request for the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> after storage of the ~~program~~ <u>content</u>; and

a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

15.   (Currently Amended) The distribution program product for distributing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a reoccurring show, or a movie.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) The distribution program product for distributing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

18.   (Currently Amended) The distribution program product for distributing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for storing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> comprises code for storing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

19.   (Currently Amended) The distribution program product for distributing the ~~program~~ <u>content</u> sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

code for determining a subset of ~~program~~ <u>content</u> from a linear schedule of ~~program~~ <u>content</u> associated with the content distributor; and

code for transmitting the subset to the user location.

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20.   (Currently Amended) The distribution program product for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for processing the command comprises code for determining usage rules related to the ~~program~~ content.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the content distributor sends the ~~program~~ content from a remote point with respect to the user location.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the ~~program~~ content sent by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the ~~program~~ content is broadcast to a plurality of user locations,

the broadcast is coextensive-in-time for the plurality of user locations, and

the user location is part of the plurality of user locations.